

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) Pneumatic thread stretcher, in particular for a rapier weaving machine or a knitting machine, comprising a substantially straight tube body having one end communicating with a pressurized air supply and remote from the one end having a blow-out end which defines a thread guiding channel and air current guiding channel, and an air current deflection surface arranged in front of the blow-out end substantially in the vicinity of a theoretical extension of the axis of the tube body, the air current deflection surface being bent in ~~the~~a blowing direction from the blow-out end in curved fashion away from the axis of the tube body, wherein the air current deflection surface is a seamless, sidewardly limited prolongation of ~~the~~an inner wall of the guiding channel.

2. (Previously Presented) Pneumatic thread stretcher as in claim 1, wherein the air current deflection surface is integrally formed with the tube body.

3. (Currently Amended) Pneumatic thread stretcher as in claim 1, wherein the air current deflection surface is arranged in the prolongation ~~which is formed like~~as a half pipe limited at both sides by guiding walls.

4. (Previously Presented) Pneumatic thread stretcher as in claim 1, wherein the cross-section of the prolongation is substantially U-shaped including side walls which, starting from the air current deflection surface, diverge or converge or extend in parallel.

5. (Previously Presented) Pneumatic thread stretcher as in claim 1, wherein the prolongation is formed from an excess length of the tube body by cutting open and bending the tube walls outwardly and bending away the excess length to one side of the axis of the tube body.

6. (Currently Amended) Pneumatic thread stretcher as in claim 1, wherein in the communication with the pressurized air supply at least one, ~~preferably remotely controlled,~~ adjustment member is contained by which the flow rate or the pressure of an air current produced along the air current deflection surface is adjustable and/or switchable between at least two different values.

7-13. (Cancelled)

14. (New) Pneumatic thread stretcher as in claim 6, wherein the adjustment member is remotely controlled.

15. (New) Pneumatic thread stretcher as in claim 1, wherein the air current deflection surface is defined by a U-shaped portion of the prolongation of the guiding channel.